

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 119036

FOR DEPUTY ASST SECRETARY SALLY SHELTON

FOLLOWING REPEAT MANAGUA 02053 ACTION SECSTATE INFO CARACAS
GUATEMALA SAN JOSE SAN SALVADOR TEGUCIGALPA
MY 3

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 2053

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OAS, SHUM, VE, NU

SUBJECT: DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS BY THE GON ON VENEZUELA'S HUMAN RIGHTS
STANCE TOWARD NICARAGUA

REF: STATE 112415

1. DURING MEETING WITH VICE FONMIN BODAN ON APRIL 27, POLOFF RAISED THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE GON WAS EXPECTING PROBLEMS TO ARISE DURING OASGA ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. BODAN REPLIED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE USG TO AVOID IDENTIFYING ITSELF WITH THE GOV IN ITS ATTACKS ON THE GON. BODAN DESCRIBED THE LATIN CONSENSUS ON THE MEANING OF NONINTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER STATES. HE SAID THE GOV HAD TRANSGRESSED THIS PRINCIPLE IN ITS PUBLIC ATTACKS ON THE GON. SPECIFICALLY, HE REFERRED TO AMB MACHIN'S CHARACTERI-
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PAGE 02 STATE 119036

ZATION OF THE GON AS A REPRESSIVE DICTATORSHIP AND IDENTIFYING THE GOV WITH THE STRUGGLE OF THE OPPRESSED NICARAGUANS TO OVERTHROW THE GON. (EMB DOES NOT KNOW IF THIS CHARACTERIZATION OF MACHIN'S STATEMENT IS ACCURATE.)

2. BODAN WENT ON TO SAY THAT GON AMBS THOUGHT THE REGION HAD CONTACTED THEIR HOST GOVERNMENTS TO DISCUSS THE GOV POSITION. HE

SAID THE REACTION HAD BEEN UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR THE GON VIEWPOINT THAT THE GOV WAS INTERVENING IN NICARAGUAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. HE AMPLIFIED HIS SUGGESTION THAT THE USG EXERCISE CAUTION IN SUPPORTING THE GOV POSITION BY SAYING THE US WOULD LOSE MUCH OF ITS GOODWILL WITH OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE HEMISPHERE IF IT WERE IDENTIFIED WITH THE GOV.

3. BODAN'S DESCRIPTION OF THE GON'S POSITION AND, ACCORDING TO HIM, THE LATINS' POSITION, IS THAT SPECIFIC OR GENERALIZED EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN RELATED TO RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN ANOTHER COUNTRY ARE ACCEPTABLE. LIKEWISE DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS ON SUCH MATTERS AS AN INSPECTION BY THE IAHRC IS ACCEPTABLE. HOWEVER, TO APPEAR TO TAKE SIDES WITH A GROUP TRYING TO OVERTHROW A GOVERNMENT IS CLEARLY INTERVENTION EVEN IF THE ONLY SUPPORT IS RHETORICAL. ACCORDING TO THIS INTERPRETATION, CUBA ALSO WOULD CLEARLY QUALIFY FOR THE INTERVENTIONIST LABEL AS A RESULT OF ITS CONSISTENT PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE FSLN GUERRILLAS.

4. BODAN DID NOT INDICATE THE GON WAS CALLING FOR A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE OAS (REFTEL) BUT THE GON'S DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE MAY BE RELATED TO THIS REQUEST. FURTHER INFORMATION SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FOLLOWING AMB'S MEETING WITH SEVILLA SACASA THIS EVENING.
SOLAUM.
UNQUOTE VANCE

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